

REMARKS

Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 12, and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-7, and 9-13 are currently pending and under consideration. The claim amendments incorporate the feature of claim 8 into independent claims 1, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Support for the amendments can be located at page 39, lines 25-27 of the specification.

Claims 1 and 3-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,088,625 (Kellstrom) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,725 (Harrison) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,647,380 (Yorsukura).

According to the present invention, as defined by original claim 8, initialized version information is assigned to a copy of the assembly data when the copy of the assembly data is made. In this regard, the original specification states that "in the initialization of the at-registration information, the oldest version of each object is set as the at-registration information." See specification of the present invention, page 39, lines 25-27.

The Examiner rejected claim 8, relying upon column 6, lines 6 – 46 of Harrison. The cited paragraph of Harrison, however, merely describes parametric identifiers used to distinguish multiple instances of the same component from each other.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 recite, "copying the assembly data as a new object and assigning thereto the oldest version information of the assembly data." Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, and 11 are patentable over Kellstrom in view of Harrison in further view of Yotsukura, as none of the references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the above-identified feature of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, and 11 are patentable over the references, as neither Kellstrom nor Harrison, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests copying assembly data as a new object. On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that the cited combination discloses assigning initialized version information to a copy of the assembly data when the copy is made. The Examiner cited column 6, lines 6-46 of Harrison for support.

Applicants respectfully submit that Harrison does not disclose copying assembly data as a new object. Rather, in Harrison, the assembly data is created by simply bringing together parts

using relationships specified in an assembly document. See Harrison, column 6, lines 6-8. Harrison utilizes a parametric system to identify sub-assembly documents. Moreover, Harrison is silent regarding the assignment of version information.

As the other references do not cure the deficiencies of Harrison, independent claims 1, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are patentable over the combination of references for the above-presented reasons. As dependent claims 4-9 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

Applicants further submit that claim 4, via independent claim 1, is patentable over the cited combination, as neither Kellstrom, Harrison, Yotsukura, nor Beppu, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the above-identified feature of claim 1.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

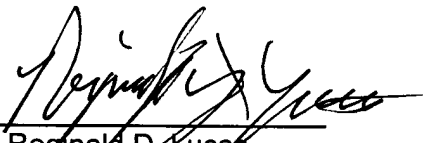
Respectfully submitted,

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3-13-07

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